

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 NEA-10 SY-05 A-01

OPR-02 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 PRS-01 PM-04

NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /077 W

-----271322 066384 /42

O 271253Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5982

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 03549

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR CASC UG GW US

SUBJECT: UGANDA: MEETING WITH AMERICANS POSTPONED

FOLLOWING MESSAGE (FRG NUMBER 84) RECEIVED FROM
AMBASSADOR ELLERKMANN 1130Z 27 FEBRUARY.

BEGIN TEXT

1. RADIO KAMPALA ANNOUNCED MORNING OF 27/2/77 THAT
AMIN'S MEETING WITH AMERICANS IS POSTPONED TO WEDNESDAY
2 MARCH SAME PLACE, SAME HOUR BECAUSE AMERICANS, SOME
OF WHICH LIVED 500 KM AWAY FROM KAMPALA, HAD REQUESTED
SO BECAUSE OF TRANSPORT DIFFICULTIES. FROM ANNOUNCEMENT
IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER NEW MEETING IS IN CONFERENCE
CENTER AT 11:00 A.M. OR INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AT
8:00 A.M.

2. MOTIVE FOR NEW CHANGE IS NOT CLEAR. SINCE GOVERNORS
AND DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS HAVE BEEN REQUESTED TO ASSIST
AMERICANS IN COMING TO KAMPALA, REASON GIVEN IS NOT
VERY CONVINCING. IT SEEMS THAT AMIN WISHES TO GIVE
FUNCTION EVEN MORE WORLDWIDE ATTENTION AS OF NOW. IT
ALSO COULD BE THAT HE WANTS TO INCLUDE OTHER NATION-
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ALITIES AND REQUEST THEM ALSO TO HAND HIM MEMORANDUM ON
SITUATION IN UGANDA. HOWEVER, IT IS MORE LIKELY THAT
REASONS OF PUBLICITY AND ORGANIZING MEETING ARE BEHIND
POSTPONEMENT.

3. IT CANNOT BE EXCLUDED THAT ARAB ADVISORS WISH TO
INFLUENCE AMIN TO USE FUNCTION FOR THEIR PURPOSES AND TO

INDUCE HIM TO GET RID OF MISSIONARIES AMONG AMERICANS
BY ASKING THEM TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY IN PLANES MADE
AVAILABLE TO THEM ON SPOT. I SHOULD MENTIONED THAT LAST
NIGHT AT A SOCIAL FUNCTION SOMALI AMBASSADOR ASKED ME
HOW MANY GERMANS LIVE IN UGANDA AND HOW MANY OF THEM ARE
MISSIONARIES.

4. ANY OTHER MOTIVE FOR CHANGE OF VENUE TO ENTEBBE
AIRPORT I CANNOT SEE. I WOULD EXCLUDE THAT AMERICANS
ARE TAKEN HOSTAGES FOR ANY POLITICAL OR OTHER REASON.
AMIN IT SEEMS TO ME WISHES THREE THINGS: (1) TO BE
TAKEN SERIOUSLY, (2) REOPENING OF US EMBASSY IN
KAMPALA, AND (3) TO DIVERT WORLD OPINION FROM KILLING
IN UGANDA. TO REACH THIS HE -- IN HIS WAY -- FRIGHTENS
AND SHOCKS FIRST AND THEN HAS HIS BIG, FRIENDLY SHOW
WITH WESTERN TELEVISION PRESENT. HE MIGHT EVEN TRY
NOW TO GET HIGH-RANKING VISITOR FROM THE US,
PREFERABLY SECRETARY OF STATE FOR SIMPLE REASON THAT
FORMER SECRETARY OF STATE AVOIDED HIM DURING HIS AFRICAN
TOUR, ALTHOUGH HE WAS CHAIRMAN OF OUA.

5. IT IS REPEATED THAT THIS EMBASSY DOES NOT SEE ANY
DANGER FOR SECURITY OF AMERICANS IN UGANDA, UNLESS
SITUATION IS ESCALATED BY UNFRIENDLY OFFICIAL ANNOUNCE-
MENTS OR SPECULATIONS IN WESTERN PRESS OF MILITARY
INTERVENTION BY AMERICANS.

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OPR-02 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 PRS-01 PM-04
NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /077 W
-----271321 066390 /42

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5983
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 03549

6. THIS EMBASSY WILL DISSEMINATE AMONG AMERICANS
MESSAGE BY DEPARTMENT OF STATE TRANSMITTED IN CABLE
NO. 42 OF 27 FEBRUARY, AS REQUESTED (BONN 3542;
STATE 43648).

7. I SHALL TRY TO REACH ACTING MINISTER FOREIGN AFFAIRS
PS LUBEGA TODAY TO GET APPOINTMENT WITH PRESIDENT TO
DELIVER PRESIDENT CARTER'S MESSAGE (INSTRUCTION NO. 823
OF 27/2/77 -- STATE 43679). I AT SAME TIME WILL REPEAT
REQUEST TO BE INVITED TO AMIN'S MEETING WITH AMERICANS.
I DO NOT THINK IT IS GOOD IDEA TO SUGGEST THAT ALSO
FRENCH AMBASSADOR AND ITALIAN CHARGE ARE INVITED.
FRENCH EMBASSY IS IN CHARGE OF BRITISH, ITALIAN EMBASSY
OF ISRAELI INTERESTS AND THEREFORE THEIR REQUEST MIGHT BE
MISINTERPRETED BY AMIN. IF MEETING WITH AMERICANS WILL
BECOME BIG FRIENDLY AFFAIR AS IS EXPECTED, THEN
ENTIRE DIPLOMATIC CORPS WILL BE INVITED ANYHOW. IT IS
RECALLED THAT FRENCH AMBASSADOR WAS REFUSED TO ATTEND
AMIN'S SIMILAR MEETING WITH BRITISH IN AUGUST 1976,
BECAUSE HE -- AMIN -- FELT THAT HE COULD HANDLE BRITISH
INTERESTS BETTER. THE BEST WAY TO ENSURE PEACEFUL
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AND HAPPY END OF AFFAIR WOULD BE TO SEND HIGH RANKING
REPRESENTATIVE FROM UNITED STATES (SENATOR, CABINET
MEMBER OR UNDER SECRETARY) OR ONE OF THE NEW BLACK-
AMERICAN GOVERNMENT APPOINTEES, EVEN IF THAT IS DIFFICULT
TO JUSTIFY BEFORE AMERICAN PUBLIC.

8. AMIN'S OFFER TO AMERICANS THAT THEY MAY OPT FOR
UGANDA CITIZENSHIP SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN TOO SERIOUSLY.
AMIN HAS DONE THIS IN MANY CASES, WITHOUT CITIZENSHIP
REALLY PASSED TO RESPECTIVE PERSONS. AMERICANS WHO HAVE
CONTACTED THIS EMBASSY SAID THEY WOULD NOT ACCEPT
UGANDAN CITIZENSHIP AND EXPLAIN TO AMIN THAT THEY
WOULD LOSE AMERICAN CITIZENSHIP BY ACCEPTING
ANOTHER.

9. EMBASSY MAINTAINS THAT THERE IS NO CAUSE FOR ALARM
FOR LIFE OR SECURITY OF AMERICAN CITIZENS IN UGANDA
UNLESS AMIN IS PROVOKED BY ANY WRONG MOVE. END TEXT.
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Message Attributes

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